

Applicant: M. Kawaguchi
U.S.S.N.: 09/470,613
RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
Page 2



REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the subject application. Claims 1-12 are subject to a restriction requirement and/ or an election of species requirement.

RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In the above referenced Office Action, the Examiner provided that the pending claims are directed to more than one patentably distinct invention. Specifically, the claims are directed to the following inventions: Group I, claims 1-8 drawn to an apparatus; and Group II, claims 9-12 drawn to a method.

Accordingly, Applicant was requested under 35 U.S.C. §121 to elect the invention to which prosecution on the merits will be restricted. In this regard, Applicant elects, with traverse, Group I, which includes claims drawn to an apparatus, presently embodied in claims 1-8.

Applicant traverses the restriction requirement on the basis that, while the claims of Groups I and II are drawn to an apparatus and method, a search for either invention would involve the same prior art (i.e., same classes/subclasses). It would appear to Applicants that a search concerning the method for supporting a substrate would necessarily involve considering references disclosing a mechanism for supporting the substrate and conversely. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that, since a comprehensive search would involve consideration of the subject matter of both inventions, for efficiency the inventions could be prosecuted at the same time.

Applicant: M. Kawaguchi
U.S.S.N.: 09/470,615
RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
Page 3

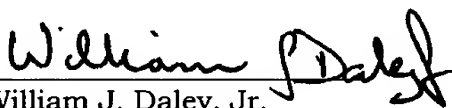
It is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in a condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

Applicant believes that additional fees are not required for consideration of the within Response. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Respectfully submitted,
EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP
DIKE, BRONSTEIN, ROBERTS & CUSHMAN
Intellectual Property Practice Group

Date: October 4, 2001

By:


William J. Daley, Jr.
(Reg. No. 35,487)
P.O. Box 9169
Boston, MA 02209
(617) 439- 4444

Bos2 179384.1